

This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

What's News ?

"On Your Bike" TV Show

Last Thursday we were invited to participate in the filming of the pilot show for the proposed new TV show called "On Your Bike". I think this was a very big honour for the Ghostriders and it certainly was an experience that will probably be a "once in a lifetime" for most of us.

It was good to see so many Ghostriders unselfishly forego their regular Thursday ride to be a part of the filming. I know that it was somewhat difficult to spend so much time waiting for the next scene, but that also gave us a rare chance to chat and get to know each other that much better. So often we are conditioned to be doing something all the time that it takes an act of discipline to actually just switch off and let time pass.

I have to admit that, in spite of having ridden to Warby Trail over 350 times, I have never ventured over the Ma-roundah Hwy to discover the final section down to Lilydale Station. In fact I don't think any of the first group had seen this section either, so it was something of a revelation. It certainly will be a marvelous improvement when the bridge over the highway is completed.

I think the highlight of the day was the filming of the epic "Banana Battle Scene" at Woori Yallock. Crasher Lewis certainly threw himself into the spirit of the moment. I was a little worried that it could have ended up as a dramatic reenactment of Black Thursday, but we all escaped unscathed and hopefully some good footage will be used in the final show.

Thanks again to all those who participated in the show. I will keep you posted as to all future develop-

ments.

Wangaratta to Bright Rail Trail Weekend—16th to 18th April 2010

As most of you would already be aware the week-end of 16th to 18th April has been set aside for the Annual Ride along the Wangaratta to Bright Rail Trail. When I asked for expressions of interest a couple of months ago, a significant number of you indicated your intention to participate in this extended ride.

Since then I have contacted the motel in Bright (The High Country Motor Inn) and they initially indicated that it would be "almost impossible to get a booking for anytime in April" as that is the most popular time of the year. To my relief however, when she checked the books, Saturday 17th April was one of the few days when rooms were available. I have asked them to reserve a half dozen rooms for us, but everyone will need to confirm their booking by ringing the motel directly on **5755 1244**. **I would advise you to do this immediately as they will not hold those rooms for us**

Monday Feb 22nd 2010

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for very long. When you make your booking you need to let them know that you are part of the Ghostriders booking.

In Wangaratta we usually stay at the Warby Lodge Motor Inn (**Ph 5721 8433**). You will all need to make bookings for Fri 16th April.

For those who have never taken part in one of our previous Wangaratta rides, the idea is that we drive up on the Friday afternoon to spend the Friday night at Wangaratta. On the Saturday we ride along the trail to Everton, then up to Beechworth for morning tea. Then it's on to Myrtleford for lunch before completing the ride to Bright. The Saturday evening is spent in Bright and then we ride back to Wang on the Sunday. The entire path is sealed, making it suitable for all types of bikes.

to hospital. She has now had a stent successfully inserted in a blocked artery and is at home recovering. I am sure we all wish her a speedy and full recovery.

Bob Leedham has recently had a bout of shingles (there seems to be a lot of it going around at the moment), but he is now over the worst of it and is hoping to be back on the trail this coming Thursday.

Gerry Driessen is now making good progress after his recent knee replacement. He is now able to drive again and is enjoying his new found mobility. We are all looking forward to the day that he can make his debut ride with the Ghostriders.

Wendy Miller is leaving for the UK this week and will be away till Easter. The trip will not be easy as she is going to visit her seriously ill father.

Coming Rides & Other News

Thursday Feb 25th— Warby Trail Ride

Start from Woori Yallock at 12 noon, COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm.

Thursday March 4th— Warby Trail Ride

Start from Woori Yallock at 12 noon, COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm. *Since this is the first Thursday of the month we will be stopping for lunch in Warburton rather than at Milgrove.*

Monday March 8th

(Labour Day) - Altona Bike Paths Ride (NEW)

This is a new ride proposed

by Bill Vandendool. I will publish more details re start time and location in next week's newsletter. Bill will be our guide.

Thurs March 20th—Warby Trail Ride

Start from Woori Yallock at 12 noon, COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm.

News from the Sick Bay

As you would be aware, **Margaret Partel** recently suffered a heart attack and was admitted



The Filming of "On Your Bike" 18th Feb 2010

It is not easy to set the alarm for 5.00 am but sometimes you just have to make a sacrifice. After all, it is not every day that you are invited to participate in the making of a pilot episode for a new TV Show.

When the producers had first contacted me a couple of months ago to see if we would be willing to take part I had not really given it a great deal of thought. I was therefore a little surprised when they got back to me some weeks later and told me that it was definitely going to go ahead.

"We need between 10 to 15 Ghostriders to be at Lilydale Station at 9.00 am in the morning", they had advised. The only problem is that none of us had ever actually ridden all the way down to Lilydale Station and I was not confident of getting so many ageing riders out of bed so early in the morning.

When Mal Bowmaker suggested that we meet at COGS and ride down to Lilydale together it seemed like a good idea. At least that way we might have a better chance of navigating back to the start of the trail.

I decided to go one better and drove to Wandin, where I left my car and rode up the hill to COGS. It was with some degree of relief that I found that I was not going to be the only Ghost rider who had made the effort to get up early. By 8 am we had ten or so riders, all decked in their

yellow jerseys, ready to head off into unknown territory.

The section from Mt Evelyn down to the Maroondah Hwy is broad and smooth and I started to wonder why we don't ride this section more often. It really does make for ideal cycling.

We reached the highway after about 15 mins and had to wait another 15 mins for a break in the busy morning traffic to get safely across the road. Although the site for the road crossing has been surveyed, as yet no actual start has been made.

Finally across the highway we discovered that the section of the trail is obviously not as frequently ridden. It is narrow and weedy and soon terminates at the fence line of Lilydale College. At this point you need to turn right and get down a steep and rough track, detouring around the rear of the college. Once past this part it is relatively easy going for the final short distance to the station.

When we arrived, the film crew was already there, unpacking their cameras, sound gear and a host of other bits too obscure to identify. A short time later we were joined by Hooters who was determined to cement his place in Ghost rider history.

We were introduced to a skinny guy on a bike who answered to the name of "Monty". He was appar-

ently going to be the host of the show and we were told that he would be "riding with us to Warburton".

We soon learned that most of TV is spent just sitting and waiting for the cue for the next scene. Eventually we were underway, the director called "ACTION", the cameras started rolling and so did we. Monty however, only rolled a very short distance before getting back into his waiting limousine to be transferred to the next location. The rest of us had to ride our bikes.

This process was repeated several times at pre selected parts along the trail. We soon started to worry about the pace of filming, especially when it took 4 hours for us to reach Mt Evelyn. At that rate we would not be at Warburton until sometime in September. On the other hand it did give us a rare opportunity to get a close look at parts of the trail we would normally just ride past. Best of all was the chance to just sit and chat with other riders. At the end of the day many commented that this indeed was a special treat.

At the start of filming I had been issued with a walkie talkie to keep in touch with the film crew. The only problem is that, with the heavy tree cover in the area, the range was quite short and I spent a lot of time listening to static.

By 1.00 pm we finally reached COGS and met up with Damien Horton and his wonder dog. These were obviously going to be the other stars of the show. Damien had constructed a special trailer so that his dog could be carried along the trail in style. I suggested that a similar trailer could be suitable for carrying our new King Jon.

While we were gathered at COGS waiting for the filming to continue, a couple of regular Thursday riders appeared but apparently did not want to be a part of the movie as they quickly disappeared down the track. I guess they must be camera shy.

Fortunately our numbers had been swelled by some late arrivals so they we still had an impressive peloton for the afternoon session.

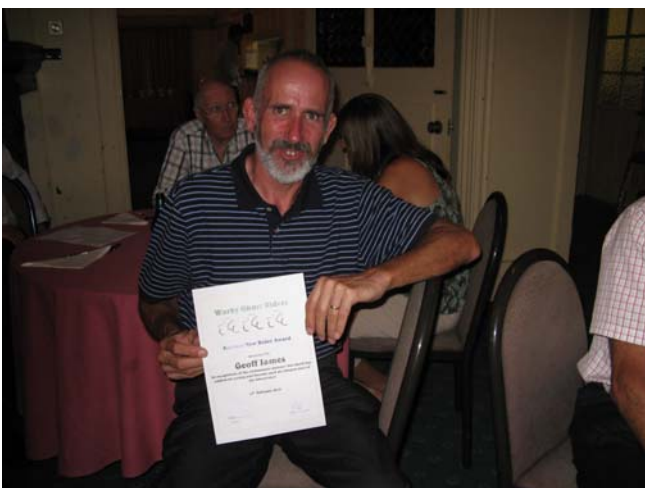
When we finally reached Wandin at about 3.00 pm I was starting to worry about getting back to my car before nightfall. I decided to jump in my car, drive to Launching Place and then ride back to meet the others at Woori Yallock. The plan went well until I was about half way back along the trail to Woori Yallock and realised that the expensive walkie talkie was missing. I figured that I must have left it in my car and continued on my way.

The others had arrived at Woori Yallock before me and were preparing for one of the major scenes of the movie—the amazing Banana Battle Scene. I sat to wait while the cameras were set up and after few minutes was met by Paul "Tubby" Clarke who had been out on his own ride from Warburton to Mt Evelyn. He happened to ask whether we had been using walkie talkies as he had found one on the trail just outside of Launching Place. Sometimes miracles do occur !

The next hour or so gave us a good opportunity to really get involved as we raced down the trail for the rolling cameras with Crasher Lewis taking a starring role. I was a little apprehensive that it could all turn into a re-enactment of Black Thursday, but fortunately we all stayed out of danger and the scene was safely completed.

It had been a long and tiring day. Although it would have been much easier to just complete our normal Thursday ride, I was glad that we had been able to be involved in a project to help promote cycling. Thanks to everyone who participated so eagerly.

Picture Gallery—Awards Night



Some images from our Annual Awards Evening
held at Emerald Country Club on
Saturday Feb 13th

All Photos by Connie Dekter

“On Your Bike” Filming—Feb 18th



Gathered at the actual start of the Warby Trail at Lilydale Railway Station



Setting up for filming near COGS at Mt Evelyn



Damien Horton and “Monty” set up the next scene

A break between scenes gives us a chance to get something to eat



Setting up for the famous “Banana Battle Scene” near Woori Yallock

A few selected images taken on Thursday 18th Feb during the filming of “On Your Bike” TV Show